

Remarks

Claims 27, 31 and 32 have been amended. Claims 25 and 26 have been cancelled.

This Amendment is submitted as being responsive to the Office Action mailed May 27, 2003. A "Request for Extension of Time" for extending the due date for responding to the Office Action by one month and a credit card payment form to cover the fee payment (\$110.00) for the extension are filed with this Amendment. Authorization is also granted to charge our deposit account no. 18-1644 for any additional fees required for entry of this Amendment.

The Examiner has rejected applicants' claims 25-32 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the Iwai, et al. patent (U.S. Patent No. 5,175,681). Applicants have cancelled applicants' claims 25 and 26, thereby obviating the Examiner's rejection with respect to these claims. Applicants have amended applicants' independent claims 27, 31 and 32 and, with respect to such claims, as amended, and their respective dependent claims, the Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants' independent claims 27, 31 and 32 have been amended to better define applicants' invention. More particularly, applicants' amended independent claims 27, 31 and 32 are directed to an apparatus, method and program storage medium for accumulating technical documents relevant to a patent application. More particularly, applicants' apparatus claim 27 now recites a display control means for displaying a list of technical documents of a patent application and a corresponding foreign application of the patent application accumulated in the accumulation means, in case of displaying a list of technical documents of the patent application. Applicants' method and program storage medium claims 31 and 32 have been similarly amended. Such constructions are not taught or suggested by the cited art of record.

More particularly, the Iwai, et al. patent discloses a system for managing the preparation and prosecution of patent applications in various countries, which divides the patent application prosecution procedures into a plurality of processes. The construction disclosed in the Iwai, et al. patent allows one to establish a case page with respect to each application in each country where a common data component and a local data component are included in each case page. The patent also states at column 9, lines 21-30, as follows:

"For example, although the foregoing specific embodiments separate the data to be stored in the case file into a common data component and a local data component, it would be possible to establish the case page with respect to each application in each country. In this case, the common data component should be included in each case page. Furthermore, in such case, each case page may include data identifying family applications so that the family application may be easily accessed."

The aforesaid passage thus mentions that a case page may include data identifying family applications. The purpose of this data is to be able to access a family application. However, this teaching of including identifying data of a family application in a case page for access purposes is not a teaching or suggestion of displaying a list of technical documents of an application and a corresponding foreign application of the patent application accumulated in an accumulation means, in case of displaying a list of technical documents of a patent application.

Moreover, none of the other passages in the Iwai, et al. patent cited by the Examiner, i.e., column 9, lines 31-67, column 10, lines 1-35, column 17, lines 1-25 and column 18, lines 30-67, teaches or suggests displaying not only a list of technical documents of an application but also a corresponding foreign application of the patent application. Likewise, none of the figures of the Iwai, et al. patent which show displays show a display of a list of

technical documents of a patent application and a corresponding foreign application of the patent application.

Applicants' amended independent claims 27, 31 and 32, and their respective dependent claims, all of which recite such features, thus patentably distinguish over the Iwai, et al. patent.

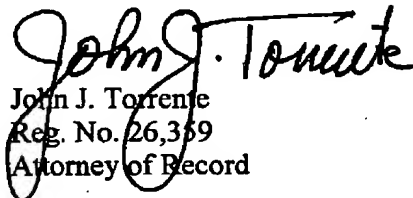
In view of the above, it is submitted that applicants' claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that an interview would expedite consideration of this Amendment or of the application, a request is made that the Examiner telephone applicants' counsel at (212) 682-9640.

Dated: September 24, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

ROBIN BLECKER & DALEY
330 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10017
T (212) 682-9640


John J. Torrente
Reg. No. 26,369
Attorney of Record

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